Technology in Action Guide

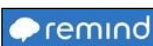# Special Education Teacher Resources

IEP Goal Writing

IEP Quality Project is an online resource to assist Illinois Special Education Educators with developing IEP Goals. Developed with a research grant at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences. The platform has a toolbox with assistant tools for Academic goals, Functional goals (behavioral/social emotional) and Transition goals. The toolbox assistant walks educators through the process to develop goals for students, making connections to the Illinois standards, including social emotional learning standards for behavior goals!!! There are student scenarios and a useful resource library. ***Currently ONLY AVAILABLE to Illinois Educators***
https://iepq.education.illinois.edu/

Family Communication

Remind - Is a text message platform that allows educators to text students and parents without sharing phone numbers. Educators can create an account online and give parents/students an access code. Parents and students send a text message with their name when registering for the class. Messages can be translated into 70 languages and have files attached to them. https://www.remind.com/

Bloomz - is a platform where teachers can safely communicate with parents, share class photos, updates, coordinate volunteers and coordinate conference signups. Another feature allows for sending invites, attaching permission slips, tracking RSVPs, requesting and signing up volunteers and sending reminders. Bloomz is protected by strict security measures. Educators can connect with parents on any device through apps, plus an email option if parents do not have smartphones.
https://app.bloomz.net/#/app

Appear.in is a video conferencing platform that allows for up to 8 people to be included in a private video chat room . Educators can use this in many ways. Many of our students have parents that are not available to attend parent/teacher conferences. (military members, business travel...etc.) One parent may be able to attend, but it is important that we try to include all family members for support. Special education educators may need to include specialists from other buildings in a conference as well. Educators can also use this platform to have a struggling student share successes with a family member during the day. https://appear.in/

Student / Goal Management

The Birdhouse student documentation app was designed to help stay organized, be more efficient, and free you up to have time to focus on what matters—teaching! The platform has an easy-to-use mobile and web-based app, to record, retrieve, and share streamlined digital notes, anywhere, at anytime!
Include IEP goals for each student, note when an event occurs with notes included for future retrieval and review. The Birdhouse app has tools to help you share info more easily and more clearly with parents and co-teachers, reducing confusion, improving action, and providing better records. The free plan allows for unlimited students or classes, streamlined notetaking, quick summaries, team collaboration and communication logs. (Web App, iOS, Android and KINDLE!)
http://www.birdhousehq.com/teachers/

Seesaw is a student driven digital portfolio system that allows students to independently document what they are learning at school. Special education educators create classes within the platform either as a group of students or one class for each student. Students can be entered into the classes or teachers can give a class code to the student to "self join". Educators can capture learning with pictures and videos, import documents and add comments. Educators can keep all the documentation within a separate class for each student, record milestones or artifacts to support identified goals. Seesaw works will all mobile devices, apps for all, even Kindle Fire! ChromeBook compatible as well! Completely free and educators can invite parents to participate. Portfolios can be downloaded at the end of the year and saved to a CD. https://app.seesaw.me

Classroom Management

Classroom Screen - Completely online tool that allows educators to use various tools to help with classroom management, instructions and many other classroom needs. Educators can upload student's names and use the Random Name tool. To get students to a website using a QR Code just put in the URL. There are also tools that allows drawing, text, Traffic Light, Sound Level and Timer tools https://www.classroomscreen.com/
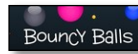
Classroom Management (Cont.)

Class Dojo—is a classroom management site that assists in creating a positive classroom culture. ClassDojo helps students build and recognize important skills, such as teamwork and persistence. Parents can be reached quickly and privately with direct messages or classroom wide messages. Messages can be translated into 35 languages. The classroom management choices can be customized. (i.e., Special education teachers can track IEP goals by setting up a classrooms for individual students.) New to ClassDojo is the "class story", a social media style feed to connect parents with what is going on in the classroom.
https://www.classdojo.com/

GoNoodle is a solution for students who have the wiggles, need a brain break, or are assigned indoor recess again. Educators can set up an account for their class and select an avatar. (These "grow" and change as users continue to utilize the website.) Activities for brain breaks, morning stretches, and energizing runs are just some of the choices. https://www.gonoodle.com/

Bouncy Balls is a noise monitor website that uses the microphone attached to a computer or built into a laptop to monitor the volume of noise in the room. As the noise level gets louder the amount of bouncing balls increases and they bonce higher....noise level goes down, so do the balls. The balls can be changed to 2 other pictures...emojis and bubbles.
https://bouncyballs.org/

Classcraft platform allows any educator to "gamify" their classroom management. This is targeted more towards MS / HS classrooms. There are free and paid portions of the platform. In the free portion educators can create a classroom (s) and students get to create their aviators. Earning points during the day students can add to their aviator. Points can be set by activity, working in groups, helping out other students. Educators can include parents in the system. https://www.classcraft.com/

Platforms for Teacher Created Tools

BitsBoard APP comes in a free version as well as a FULLY OPEN paid version currently $19.99. The free version includes access to the Bitsboard catalog including tens of thousands of flashcards and carefully curated lessons covering hundreds of topics. Bitsboard is fully customizable to meet educators specific learning needs and allows educators to create their own cards that can be used in the 14 plus activities in the APP. The free version allows access to an online collection of "boards" that other educators have created that can be downloaded. The PRO version does allow for multiple users on one device and more management capabilities. Also popup reminders to upgrade will disappear. Read more about BitsBoard online HERE.   http://apple.co/2y9LA6i

Educaplay allows educators to create and share multimedia Educational Activities to any device using the HTML5 technology (interactive abilities). ESL students can practice by creating or reviewing conversations with the dialogue activity. Games are available such as matching, fill in the blank, riddles, slide show, word search, video quiz that include audio. All styles can be educator created or selected from a large community of already created resources. The resources are in English and 8 other languages which makes this also a great resource for world language (foreign) classes also. https://en.educaplay.com/

Google Chrome Extensions

Last Pass - Educators have passwords to so many logins and our students struggle with this task as well. Last Pass is an extension that allows you to remember ONE password– the LAST PASS password. Save all usernames and passwords to LastPass, and it will autologin to websites and sync passwords everywhere you need them. Educators can even have multiple accounts for the same website and Last Pass will store each separately.
http://bit.ly/2KNxoqe

Screencastify—A simple video screen capture extension that is for Google Chrome. Screencastify is the easiest way to record, edit, annotate, store, and share video screen recordings on a Chromebook as well as other devices. Record a specific open tab, or your whole desktop at the click of a button. The Lite version is free and suitable for many needs. Educators can record online activities for students to follow or steps for a homework assignment and place on a class website for students to access at home.
http://bit.ly/2rwUlVW

Even MORE Resources

To find more resources and the latest up-to-date technology to support technology integration, please visit www.ilclassroomtech.weebly.com.

- ◆ Assessment tools
- ◆ Audio/video tools
- ◆ Content area support
- ◆ Digital portfolios
- ◆ Computer science

- ◆ Learning management systems
- ◆ Mobile apps
- ◆ Research tools
- ◆ Social Emotional Learning
- ◆ Technology terms

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